GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3316
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2016
Drought as National Disasters
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that on a PIL by an NGO Supreme Court has recently observed and mooted the idea of declaring drought as a National disaster or calamity and funds under the National Disaster Management Act could be disbursed by the Centre to the affected States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken by the Government to mitigate the drought condition in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

???? ??? ????? ?????? ???????? ??? ????? ?????? (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA)

(a) & (b): A Writ Petition (Civil) No. 857 of 2015 by Swaraj Abhiyan Vs Union of India & Others was filed before the Supreme Court of India. The matter is presently sub-judice.

(c): Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Hyderabad of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), has prepared detailed crop Contingency Plans for 614 districts in the country. States have been advised for preparing/ updating/fine-tuning Contingency Plans for each district in consultation with CRIDA and the State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and to prepare location specific remedial measures based on these contingency plans in the event of late arrival of Monsoon/long dry spells/scanty rainfall/drought conditions e.g. tying up availability of seeds and other inputs for implementing the Contingency Plans.

The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched on 1st July, 2015 with the motto of 'Har Khet Ko Paani' for providing end-to-end solutions in irrigation supply chain, viz. water sources, distribution network and farm level applications. PMKSY not only focuses on creating sources for assured irrigation, but also creating protective irrigation by harnessing rain water at micro level through 'Jal Sanchay' and 'Jal Sinchan'.

A number of Ministries/Departments in the Government of India are also implementing various schemes/programmes towards mitigation of drought. These include Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Department of Land Resources, Department of Rural Development, Department of School Education & Literacy and NITI Aayog etc.
****